



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TX 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-CL-P

09 OCT 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Regional Medical Commands

SUBJECT: Release of a Soldier's Protected Health Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)

1. References:

- a. DoD 6025.18-R, DoD Health Information Privacy Program, 24 January 2003.
- b. MEDCOM Staff Judge Advocate opinion, 20 July 2007, subject: Sharing Protected Health Information with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

2. The above references permit the disclosure of a Soldier's protected health information to the DVA for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations (DoD 6025.18-R, C4.2.4), for sharing between the Department of Defense (DoD) and DVA, upon the Soldier's separation/discharge (DoD 6025.18-R, C7.11.2), for sharing between the DoD and DVA when providing benefits for the same beneficiaries (DoD 6025.18-R, C7.11.7.2), and upon the Soldier's authorization (DoD 6025.18-R, C5). Information may be provided to the Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration early in the medical evaluation board process for the purpose of an early determination by the DVA of the individual's eligibility for or entitlement to benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

3. Medical treatment facilities must account for the disclosures upon separation/discharge and for disclosures when providing benefits for the same beneficiaries IAW DoD 6025.18-R, C13 of reference 1a. Additionally, we recommend when Soldiers arrive at the Warrior Transition Units they receive notice to facilitate their eligibility for Veteran's benefits and continuity of care. The Army will then share their protected health information with the DVA.

4. Point of contact is Mr. Thomas E. Leonard, Patient Administration Division, at (210) 221-7841, or email Thomas.E.Leonard@us.army.mil.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

WILLIAM H. THRESHER
Chief of Staff